

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 640
92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Special Committee on Urban Issues, April 24, 2003, with recommendation that the House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 640 Do Pass.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

1444L.03C

AN ACT

To amend chapter 9, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to Emancipation Day.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 9, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 9.161, to read as follows:

**9.161. June nineteenth, known as Juneteenth, of each year shall be known and is
2 designated as "Emancipation Day" to provide an opportunity for the people of Missouri
3 to reflect upon the United States of America's passion for freedom as exemplified in the
4 Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation,
5 and to reflect upon the significance and particularity of the Emancipation Proclamation
6 and its role in ending slavery in the United States. To celebrate that Juneteenth
7 commemorates the spirit and quest of African-American freedom emphasizing education,
8 art, and intellectual achievement, through reflection, rejoicing, and manifestation of a more
9 substantive economic and just citizenry, the people of the state, offices of government, and
10 all educational, commercial, political, civic, religious, and fraternal organizations in the
11 state are requested to devote some part of the day to remember the proclamation that
12 began the full realization for all people in the United States of the self-evident truth, as
13 stated in the Declaration of Independence of the United States, that all men are created
14 equal, by:**

**(1) Celebrating the abolishment of slavery, accomplished by ratification of the
15 thirteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, as the former slaves
16 celebrated on June 19, 1865, upon learning the message of freedom from Major General
17 Gordon Granger of the Union Army in Galveston, Texas, which celebration, known as
18 "Juneteenth", is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery; and
19**

20 **(2) Reaffirming their commitment to achieving equal justice and opportunity for**
21 **all citizens.**